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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,709	03/19/2001	Masahiro Minowa	81747.0192	9714

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EXAMINER

BHATIA, AJAY M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2145

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/812,709

Applicant(s)

MINOWA, MASAHIRO

Examiner

Ajay M. Bhatia

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: steps a-f are missing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 7, 9-13, 16, 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Luchene (VL) (U.S. Patent 6,223,163) and Stein et al. (Stein) (5,459,306).

For claim 1, VL teaches, a receipt printing and issuing system having an input device, a printing device, a display device, and a storage device for printing other information in addition to required print information, comprising:

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a memory control device for receiving and storing advertising one or more advertisements or other additional information to be printed on a receipt paper, wherein the additional information is information other than the required information; (VL, Col. 3 lines 40-65, POS terminal)

a display/input device for interacting with customers(VL, Col. 3 lines 40-65, display device and input device)

a control device for generating a list of items of the additional information to be displayed on the display/input device according to a predetermined condition; (VL, Col. 5 lines 43-55, offer frequency is predetermined)

a selection control device for receiving one or more items selected through the display/input; and(VL, Col. 5 line 65 to Col. 6 line 22, acceptance of offer)

wherein the event selection input waiting time elapses, and there is no selection by the customer, the selection control device can function to select the additional information from a list of items of the additional information; and(VL, Col. 5 line 65 to Col. 6 line 22, the system of VL is not prevented from operating in this manner therefore it "can", American Heritage College dictionary, "can" used to indicate physical or mental ability)

a print data generating device for generating print data to be printed on the receipt paper by merging original receipt information according to the payment transaction and the additional information designated by the one or more selected items in the list. (VL, Col. 3 lines 54-65, receipt)

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VL fails to clearly disclose, sending the merged information to the printing device

Stein teaches, sending the merged information to the printing device (Stein, Col. 6 lines 66 to Col. 7 Col. 7, figure 4)

Stein is compatible with VL because VL allows different types of printing device (VL, Col. 3 lines 60-65)

Stein and VL are both in the field of POS (point of sale) system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to merge the additional information into the receipt because VL discloses "a printer for printing receipts, coupons and vouchers as commanded by the processor" and one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention would merge the additional information into the receipt using the method of Stein because it "communication individually with the user each time the user makes a purchase." (Stein Col. 2 lines 44-46)

For claim 2, VL-Stein teaches, wherein the memory control device receives and stores said additional information input over a network. (VL, Col. 3 lines 50-54, remote server)

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For claim 3, VL-Stein teaches, wherein the selection control device selects at least one item of additional information. (VL, Col. 5 line 65 to Col. 6 line 22, acceptance of offer)

For claim 7, VL-Stein teaches, wherein the receipt printing and issuing system is a purchase transaction processing system further comprising:

(e) an accounting information control device for registering a product purchase by a customer and outputting accounting information; (VL, Col. 3 lines 54-65, receipt)

said print data generating device generating print data by combining accounting information output by the accounting information control device with the additional information read by the selection control device for printing as a receipt. (VL, Col. 3 lines 54-65, receipt, Col. 5 line 65 to Col. 6 line 22, acceptance of offer) and (Stein, Col. 6 lines 66 to Col. 7 Col. 7, figure 4)

motivation for combining the additional information into the receipt is for similar reasons as sated above in claim 1.

For claim 9, VL teaches, an additional information printing method using a receipt printing and issuing system having an input device, printing device, display device, and storage device for storing advertising or other additional information, and printing said additional information in addition to information for a primary purpose, said printing method comprising:

(a) displaying a list of printable additional information to a customer including the one or more advertisements included in said display list; (VL, Col. 4 lines 55-67, offer, Col. 3 lines 54-65)

(b) receiving input from the customer selecting additional information including the one or more advertisements included in said display list; (VL, Col. 4 lines 55-67, offer, Col. 3 lines 54-65, figure 4, 11)

wherein the event selection input waiting time elapses, and there is no selection by the customer, the selection control device can function to select the additional information from a list of items of the additional information; (VL, Col. 5 line 65 to Col. 6 line 22, acceptance of offer)

(c) reading the additional information specified by said input; (VL, Col. 5 line 65 to Col. 6 line 22, acceptance of offer)

(d) generating print data to be printed on receipt paper information according to the payment transaction and the read additional information designated by the one or more selected item in the list; and (VL, Col. 3 lines 54-65, receipt)

(e) sending the generated print data to the printing device. (VL, Col. 3 lines 54-65, receipt r)

VL fails to clearly disclose, by merging original receipt

Stein teaches, by merging original receipt (Stein, Col. 6 lines 66 to Col. 7 Col. 7, figure 4)

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Stein is compatible with VL because VL allows different types of printing device (VL,

Col. 3 lines 60-65

Stein and VL are both in the field of POS (point of sale) system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to merge the additional information into the receipt because VL discloses "a printer for printing receipts, coupons and vouchers as commanded by the processor" and one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention would merge the additional information into the receipt using the method of Stein because it "communication individually with the user each time the user makes a purchase." (Stein Col. 2 lines 44-46)

For claim 10, VL-Stein teaches, further comprising:

(f) extracting additional information satisfying a particular condition from the stored additional information, and generating the additional information list displayed in step (a). (VL, Col. 5 lines 42-56, frequency)

For claim 11, VL-Stein teaches, wherein the particular condition in step (f) is selectively changeable. (VL, Col. 7 lines 42-67)

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For claim 12, VL-Stein teaches, an additional information printing method as described in claim 9, further comprising:

(g) updating the stored additional information with additional information input by way of a network. (VL, Col. 40-52, remote server)

For claim 13, VL-Stein teaches, an additional information printing method as described in claim 12, wherein step (b) includes selecting at least one item of additional information. (VL, Col. 5 line 65 to Col. 6 line 22, acceptance of offer)

For claim 16, VL-Stein teaches, further comprising:

(h) registering a product purchase by a customer and outputting accounting information; (VL, Col. 3 lines 54-65, receipt)

wherein step (d) includes generating print data by combining said accounting information with the selected additional information, and sending the print data to the printing device for printing as a receipt. (VL, Col. 3 lines 54-65, receipt, Col. 5 line 65 to Col. 6 line 22, acceptance of offer) and (Stein, Col. 6 lines 66 to Col. 7 Col. 7, figure 4) motivation for combining the additional information into the receipt is for similar reasons as sated above in claim 9.

For claim 18, VL-Stein teaches, a computer-readable data storage medium having computer program code embodied therein for implementing an additional information printing method as described in claim 9. (VL, Col. 40-53)

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For claim 19, VL-Stein teaches, wherein said control device for generating the list of items of information generates the list of information satisfying a particular condition related to a customer demographic. (VL, Col. 5 lines 4-22, figure 5) and (Stein, Col. 4 lines 14-42) motivation for targeting the additional in the receipt is for similar reasons as sated above in claim 1.

For claim 20, VL-Stein teaches, wherein display a list of printable additional information to a customer includes displaying a list of items of information to a customer that satisfies a particular condition related to a customer demographic. (VL, Col. 5 lines 4-22, figure 5) and (Stein, Col. 4 lines 14-42) motivation for targeting the additional in the receipt is for similar reasons as sated above in claim 9.

Claims 4, 5, 6, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over VL-Stein.

For claim 4, VL-Stein fails to clearly disclose, wherein the selection control device automatically reads specific additional information according to a specific rule when a specific time has elapsed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to at the time of invention to implement a time-out, time out is well

know in the art with user interface, with the system of VL-Stein since the transaction time is limited and customer need to be hurried along to prevent long lines. (Coutts et al. U.S. Patent 6,311,165 discusses time-out in a POS system, Col. 48 lines 11-21)

For claim 5, VL-Stein teaches, wherein the display control device selectively changes the specific condition for generating a list of additional information presented on the display device. (VL, Col. 5 lines 42-56, frequency)

For claim 6, VL-Stein fails to clearly disclose, wherein the print data generating device generates print data by reducing plural items of additional information read by the selection control device to a specific ratio when plural items of additional information are selected.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to arrange additional information in manner that would allow proper formatting when printing on a receipt which would normally require a reduction in size of the advertisement to fit multiple advertisements on a single portion of the receipt.

For claim 14, VL-Stein fails to clearly disclose, wherein step (c) includes automatically reading specific additional information according to a specific rule when selection input is not received even after a specific time passes.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to at the time of invention to implement a time-out, time out is well known in the art with user interface, with the system of VL-Stein since the transaction time is limited and customer need to be hurried along to prevent long lines. (Coutts et al. U.S. Patent 6,311,165 discusses time-out in a POS system, Col. 48 lines 11-21)

For claim 15, VL-Stein teaches, an additional information printing method as described in claim 14, wherein step (d) includes generating print data by reducing plural selected items of additional information to a specific ratio when plural items of additional information are selected.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to arrange additional information in manner that would allow proper formatting when printing on a receipt which would normally require a reduction in size of the advertisement to fit multiple advertisements on a single portion of the receipt.

Claims 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over VL-Stein in view of Mold (U.S. Patent 5,978,772).

For claim 8, VL-Stein fails to clearly disclose, wherein the receipt printing and issuing system is a customer ticket issuing system further comprising:

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(f) a queuing number control device for managing queuing numbers and outputting said queuing number as print data;

said print data generating device generating and sending to the printing device print data by combining print data output by the queuing number control device with the additional information read by the selection control device.

wherein the receipt printing and issuing system is a customer ticket issuing system further comprising:

(f) a queuing number control device for managing queuing numbers and outputting said queuing number as print data; (Mold, Col. 9 lines 32-57)

said print data generating device generating and sending to the printing device print data by combining print data output by the queuing number control device with the additional information read by the selection control device. (Mold, Col. 9 lines 32-57)

Mold is compatible with VL-Stein because it is also part of a POS (Point of Sale) system.

VL-Stein and Mold are both in the field of POS (Point of Sale) system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement a queuing system with that of VL-Stein because the

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queuing system of Mold would improve the POS system ability to handle more people more rapidly requiring people to wait less. (Mold, Col. 3 lines 37-47, Col. 6 lines 8-10)

For claim 17, VL-Stein fails to clearly disclose, further comprising:

(i) managing queuing number output and outputting a queuing number as print data; wherein step (d) includes generating and sending to the printing device print data by combining said queuing number with the selected additional information. (Mold, Col. 9 lines 32-57)

Mold is compatible with VL-Stein because it is also part of a POS (Point of Sale) system.

VL-Stein and Mold are both in the field of POS (Point of Sale) system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement a queuing system with that of VL-Stein because the queuing system of Mold would improve the POS system ability to handle more people more rapidly requiring people to wait less. (Mold, Col. 3 lines 37-47, Col. 6 lines 8-10)

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See attached Notice of references cited (if appropriate).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay M. Bhatia whose telephone number is (571)-272-3906. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571)272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jason Cardone
Supervisor Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2145

AB